

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

I, **James D. Martin** declare that I am a citizen of the **United States of America**, residing at **13121 Maugansville Road, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740**, that I have reviewed and understand the foregoing specification and claims, and that I verily believe that I am the original inventor of the invention entitled:

SPRING-LOADED ANIMAL TETHER ASSEMBLY

described and claimed therein; that I do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or more that one year prior to this application; or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to this application; that this invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by us or my legal representatives or assigns more that twelve months before the application; that I acknowledge a duty to disclose information I am aware of which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate has been filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States except as follows: None.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge and belief are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents resulting thereon.

I hereby appoint:

Neil F. Markva
8322A Traford Lane
Springfield, Virginia 22152
(703)644-5000

attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Wherefore, I pray that Letter Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney and this petition.

Febr. 2, 2004
Date

James D. Martin
James D. Martin
13121 Maugansville Road
Hagerstown, Maryland USA 21740

Docket No.: 432-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant or Patentee: James D. Martin
Serial or Patent No.: Not yet assigned
Filed or Issued: herewith
For: SPRING-LOADED ANIMAL TETHER ASSEMBLY

NON-PUBLICATION REQUEST UNDER 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i)

As a below named inventor, I hereby certify that the invention entitled and described in

SPRING-LOADED ANIMAL TETHER ASSEMBLY

has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under multilateral agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

I hereby request that the attached application, as stated above, not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). This request is signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.33(b) and submitted with the application upon filing.

Feb. 2, 2004
Date

James D. Martin
James D. Martin
13121 Maugansville Road
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Attorney:
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vra

Docket No.: 432-001

Applicants: James D. Martin

Serial/Patent No.: not yet assigned

Filed/Issued: herewith

For: SPRING-LOADED ANIMAL TETHER ASSEMBLY

**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTORS**

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for the purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled **SPRING-LOADED ANIMAL TETHER ASSEMBLY** described in

☒ the specification, filed herewith
☐ application, Serial No. , filed
☐ Patent No. , issued

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed or are under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☐ no such person, concern or organization
☒ persons, concerns or organizations listed below

FULL NAME: **James D. Martin**
ADDRESS: 13121 Maugansville Road
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

☒ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN
☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Feb. 2, 2004
Date

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